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WHO NEEDS THEM?

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IMMUNIZATION
PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

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IMMUNIZATIONS
YOUR WHO

You protect your child in many ways. You dress her warmly before she goes outside in cold weather. You hold his hand to cross a busy street. You place her in a car seat. One of the best ways to protect your child's health is with immunizations. Immunizations are also called shots.

Immunizations protect your child from many illnesses. But to be most protected, your child should receive immunizations early and at the right times. Some diseases can cause permanent physical and mental harm to children and adults. These include diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus (lockjaw), polio, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infections. Some of these are most dangerous before 2 years of age.

Immunizations can prevent these diseases.

HERE'S HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD:

(1) Check the recommended immunization schedule in this pamphlet to make sure each child in your family has up-to-date shots. **DO IT RIGHT AWAY!**

(SHOTS) PROTECT LE FAMILY

(2) If your child has not had the recommended immunizations shown in the schedule, call your doctor or local health department. Each time you take your child to the doctor or clinic for shots, have the doctor or nurse write the date (month, day and year) of each immunization on your child's immunization record card. Keep this card. It is an important document for your child's entry into day care or school. Bring the card with you each time you take your child to the doctor or clinic.

(3) If your child has an appointment for an immunization, be sure to keep it. If you can't keep your appointment, call the doctor or clinic and ask for another day to bring your child in.

Get an immunization record card from your doctor, clinic, local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health Immunization Program.

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CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

Vaccines work best when given at the recommended ages and at the recommended times. Measles vaccine, for example, is usually given to a baby after the age of 15 months. If given earlier, it may not be as effective. DTP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis), oral polio, Hib and hepatitis B vaccines must be given in a series of doses or shots.

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

The following schedule shows the immunizations a child should receive and the best age to begin each. Your child should continue any immunizations missed as soon as possible, with the recommended time between doses.

If your child has not been immunized as shown in the schedule, contact your doctor or the health department clinic and arrange to bring their immunizations up to date. Don't delay.

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

Your health care provider may want your child to have shots at other times than the ones shown here.

Age of Vaccination	DTP (diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis)	Td (tetanus & diphtheria)	OPV (oral polio vaccine)	MMR (measles, mumps & rubella)	Hib (type of bacterial meningitis)	Hepititis B*
1–2 months						√
2 months	√		√		√	
4 months	√		√		√	√
6 months	√				√	
6-18 months						√
15 months	√		√	√	√	
4–6 years**	√		√	√		
Every 10 years		√				

* Your physician may wish to give the first dose before your baby leaves the hospital. Your baby then needs another shot at 1 to 2 months and again at 6 to 18 months of age.

** Before starting school

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IMMUNIZATION

DIPHTHERIA

An infectious disease that causes fever, difficult breathing and weakness of the heart. For years, diphtheria killed many children in the United States and could again if children are not immunized. Adults get continuing protection from diphtheria and tetanus in the same shot.

TETANUS (Lockjaw)

Tetanus works on the nervous system to cause muscle contractions, convulsions, and frequently, death. Tetanus bacteria are found everywhere in our environment and can enter the body through any break in the skin—even a tiny cut or puncture. Everyone should have a tetanus-diphtheria booster shot every 10 years to stay protected.

PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough)

Whooping cough, an extremely contagious disease that may also affect the brain, is very serious for children younger than 6 years of age. Immunizations should begin at 2 months of age and are finished by 6 years of age.

POLIOMYELITIS (Polio)

Paralytic polio strikes children and adults and can cripple and kill. Before the discovery of the vaccine, polio caused epidemics in all parts of the United States. Immunization begins at 2 months of age and is usually

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completed before school entry. However, an adult may need one more dose if traveling to infected countries.

MEASLES (Rubeola)

Before the vaccine became available, nearly every child developed measles. Measles caused hundreds of deaths in the United States every year. Immunization has sharply decreased the number of children getting measles in Illinois.

MUMPS

Mumps can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in children. Serious complications can also result when adults or teenagers–particularly males–get mumps. A combined shot prevents measles, mumps and rubella.

RUBELLA (German Measles)

Children must be immunized to prevent the spread of rubella to expectant mothers. Rubella infection in a pregnant woman can cause permanent eye and heart defects, hearing loss and physical deformities in her unborn baby. The vaccine is combined with those for measles and for mumps.

HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE b (Hib) INFECTIONS

Haemophilus influenzae causes serious health problems in young children, including the most dangerous type of

RANCE WE HAVE!

ESE DISEASES

meningitis. New Hib vaccines are very effective in children 2 months of age or older. They are not needed after the child reaches 5 years of age.

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver that is most dangerous when contracted in the first few years of life. Three doses of a new vaccine protect infants through early childhood. Some adolescents and adults who are at increased risk may need to be vaccinated.

Shots may be available free or at low cost through the local health department in your area.

Adults should have some of these immunizations as well. Have your doctor or health department review your immunizations too.

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For additional information about immunizations call:

1-800-323-GROW
(Voice and TDD)

Help me grow
Brenda Edgar's Campaign for Children

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Division of Infectious Diseases
Immunization Program
525 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

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